

VERMONT SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN STEM EQUITY PIPELINE

Four Vermont Regional CTE Centers Selected as Pilot Sites

MONTPELIER – The Agency of Education announced today that Vermont has been selected to participate in a project called the “STEM Equity Pipeline.” The purpose of the project is to develop strategies to increase female student participation and completion in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) related programs offered in the regional career technical education (CTE) centers through root cause analysis, action planning and professional development.

“Increasing opportunities in STEM fields for girls is important,” said Secretary of Education Armando Vilaseca. “Ensuring that our female students are exposed to non-traditional career fields is a high priority for the Agency and our schools. This project will help CTE centers to create programs that will encourage girls and address the gender gap.”

The Agency’s Career Technical Education (CTE) workgroup is coordinating efforts related to the two year project and has assembled a state leadership team, representing a cross-section of state government entities, gender equity experts, secondary, post-secondary, not-for-profit, and business and industry partners. The purpose of the state leadership team is to develop a state plan to address gender equity in STEM in Vermont. See below for a listing of leadership team members.

The STEM Equity Pipeline state leadership team recently released a pilot site application to the regional career technical education centers. The pilot sites and their regional education partners will receive professional development, technical assistance, and access to a national network through The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE).

The Agency is pleased to announce that the following regional CTE centers have been selected as pilot sites for the project:

CTE Center	Location	Director
Barre Technical Center	Barre	Penny Chamberlin
Center for Technology, Essex	Essex Junction	Bob Travers
North Country Career Center	Newport	Eileen Illuzzi
Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center	Middlebury	D. Lynn Coale

“The STEM Equity Pipeline Project is another avenue for our career centers to develop offerings that are flexible and responsive,” said Deputy Commissioner Fischer. “The goal of the project is for career centers to implement innovative research-based strategies that encourage female students to pursue pathways they might not have otherwise considered.”

The Agency will be providing \$2,000 grants to each pilot site and is currently seeking private sector partners to provide a matching grant. “It’s critical to the success of this project that we establish partnerships with business and industry,” said Jay Ramsey, CTE Workgroup Coordinator. “The beginning of these partnerships is demonstrated in the structure of the State Leadership Team.”

STEM Equity Pipeline State Leadership Team

Name	Title	Organization
Jay Ramsey	CTE Workgroup Coordinator	Agency of Education
Doug Webster	CTE Program Consultant	Agency of Education
Peter Drescher	Educational Technology Consultant	Agency of Education
Rachel Gitajn	Design Engineer	Burton Snowboards
Carrie Dickinson	Assistant Director	Center for Technology, Essex
Lynn Vera	Guidance Coordinator	Center for Technology, Essex
Darlene Murphy	Associate Academic Dean	Community College of Vermont
Mat Barewicz	Labor Market Information Chief	Department of Labor
Eileen Illuzzi	Director	North Country Career Center, Newport
Ruth Durkee	Adult Education Coordinator	Randolph Technical Career Center
Lyle Jepson	Director	Stafford Technical Center, Rutland
Cary Brown	Executive Director	State of Vermont, Commission on Women
Kathy Johnson	Principal	Vermont Equity Training & Consulting
Rosemary Distell	Associate Academic Dean	Vermont Technical College
Mary Ann Sjoblom	Software Engineer	Vermont Works for Women
Kelly Walsh	Girls Program Director	Vermont Works for Women

Learn more about NAPE here: <http://www.napequity.org>

Learn more about the STEM Equity Pipeline here: <http://bit.ly/15dbSCH>

The project is managed by the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) and is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Human Resources Development, Research on Gender in Science and Engineering Program.

Please contact Jay Ramsey, CTE Workgroup Coordinator, at 802-828-5140 with questions.

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CTE (Career Technical Education) is learning that works for Vermont. CTE is helping our state meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement and global competitiveness. CTE is developing Vermont's most valuable resource—its people; helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience they need to prepare for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers—and keep Vermont and America working—in every sense of the word. CTE is organized by a national framework called Career Clusters™, which presents a complete range of related career options to students of all ages, helps them discover their interests and passions, and empowers them to choose the educational pathway that can lead to success in high school, college and their chosen career. CTE is leading change, transforming expectations and making the difference for students, for high schools and colleges, for business and industry, for America. Learn more at www.careertech.org.